

## **NOTICE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING for ROCKFORD URBAN AND METROPOLITAN AREA**

Notice is hereby given that the Rockford Area Transportation Study (RATS), the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Rockford Urban and Metropolitan area, is seeking public comment on the transportation planning process and the development of the following documents. RATS coordinates publicly funded transportation planning and improvements among the various jurisdictions in Winnebago and Boone Counties.

**1. RATS FY-2007 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):** This document specifies the transportation planning work proposed over the next year (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007). A draft of the FY-2007 UWP is now available and will be considered for adoption on May 25, 2006. Comments will be accepted at the Technical Committee meetings at 10:00 a.m. on April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup> in Loves Park City Hall and at the Policy Committee meeting at 1:15 p.m. on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Winnebago County Administration Building.

**2. RATS FY-2007 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):** This document will identify and prioritize all major transportation and public transit improvements scheduled for implementation in the RATS Metropolitan Area in the next four years (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2010). The document is now under development and a draft will be available for comment at the end of June 2006. The target adoption is on or about July 27, 2006. Public comments will be accepted anytime, but should be submitted prior to July 20, 2006.

**3. ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS FOR COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION:** This study will review the priority corridor's current transportation methods, volumes, and routes for North Central Illinois residents that are traveling to and/or from destinations in Chicago's northwestern suburbs and the City of Chicago. The study will estimate how much need for transportation is remaining unmet by the current transportation alternatives. The goal of the study is to evaluate if indeed transportation needs are unmet, and if so what alternative to existing transportation modes in the area will be most effective to improve mobility and support economic development, while still being cost effective.

A series of public informational open houses will be held at four area locations to inform the public about this Alternatives Analysis study for commuter transportation alternatives in the greater Rockford area. The format of these open houses will be an informal discussion between the public and RATS staff. The times and locations are:

### **DATES**

May 3, 2006 – Wednesday 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Rockford City Hall Council Chambers 425 E. State St. Rockford, IL <b>Formal Presentation:</b> 11:30 AM	May 3, 2006 – Wednesday 3:15 PM to 6:15 PM Roscoe Village Hall Council Chambers 10595 Main St, Roscoe Roscoe, IL <b>Formal Presentation:</b> 5:30 PM	May 4, 2006 – Thursday 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Loves Park City Hall Cafeteria Room 100 Heart Boulevard Loves Park, IL <b>Formal Presentation:</b> 11:30 AM	May 4, 2006 – Thursday 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM Belvidere Community Building – Banquet Room 111 West 1 <sup>st</sup> Street Belvidere, IL <b>Formal Presentation:</b> 5:30 PM
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The purpose of these open houses is to view graphic displays, discuss study goals and objectives, ask questions and obtain public comments and input.

**4. RATS 2035 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP).** The LRTP discusses, plans and assigns priority for all major transportation systems improvements for the Metropolitan Area over the next 20 to 30 years. On July 28, 2005 the RATS Policy Committee adopted the LRTP. However, the LRTP is available for public review and can be amended at any time. Public comments and input is encouraged. The next scheduled formal review and update is tentatively schedule for 2009.

Public comments are welcomed on all the above work and at all RATS meetings or by contacting RATS by telephoning, e-mailing or writing. RATS Technical Committee meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month and the Policy Committee meetings on the following Thursday. The exact meeting dates, times, and locations are finalized and announced at least a week in advance. Persons seeking more information on these meetings, the above mentioned studies or any other information related to RATS should view the material on the City of Rockford web site at <http://www.cityofrockford.net> or contact RATS Staff:

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